

## Message Text

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SUBJ: BDG WHITE PAPER ON FARAKKA

1. SUMMARY. THE BDG HAS RELEASED THREE PAPERS, A WHITE PAPER AND A SUMMARY, DETAILING THE CURRENT ECONOMIC EFFECTS AND THE 25-YEAR HISTORY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FARAKKA BARRAGE. THE PAPERS CONCLUDE THAT INDIA'S GOOD FAITH WILL BE DEMONSTRATED BY RESTORING THE NORMAL FLOW OF THE GANGES TO BANGLADESH AND AGREEING TO A PERMANENT SOLUTION THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF STORAGES IN THE GANGES BASIN. END SUMMARY.

2. BDG RELEASED SEPTEMBER 13 THREE PAPERS ON THE FARAKKA DISPUTE WITH INDIA. FIRST INSTALLMENT OF TEXTS, RE-PRINTED IN SEPTEMBER 14 PAPERS, WILL BE TAKEN TO NEW YORK BY M.F.A. SIDDIKY, MEMBER, BDG-INDIA JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION AND BDG DELEGATE TO UN. THE 28-PAGE WHITE PAPER, ONE SUMMARY PAPER ENTITLED "DEADLOCK ON THE GANGES," AND A SECOND BRIEFER STATEMENT, "GANGES  
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WATER, CRISIS IN BANGLADESH," ARE THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE

STATEMENTS TO DATE ON THE HISTORICAL, LEGAL AND ECONOMIC SIDES OF THIS ISSUE.

3. WHITE PAPER COVERS IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC EFFECTS AND REVIEWS HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS IN DETAIL. WE SUMMARIZE HERE THE MAJOR POINTS ONLY (FULL TEXT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM):

A. POLITICAL/LEGAL CONCLUSIONS:

1. DURING THE 25 YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CONSTRUCTED AND IS NOW OPERATING THE FARAKKA BARRAGE IN VIOLATION OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS AND WITHOUT RECOGNIZING BANGLADESH'S LEGAL RIGHT TO AN EQUITABLE SHARE OF GANGES WATER.

2. THE GANGES IS AN INTERNATIONAL RIVER AND UTILIZATION OF ITS WATERS MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH THE RULES OF CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3. INTERNATIONAL LAW REQUIRES THAT THE WATERS OF THE GANGES BE EQUITABLY APPORTIONED OR SHARED BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH.

4. IN THE EQUITABLE APPORTIONMENT OF THE WATERS AVAILABLE DURING THE MONTHS OF SCARCITY BANGLADESH IS ENTITLED TO THE NATURAL FLOW OF THE GANGES IN ORDER TO SATISFY URGENT HUMAN NEEDS THAT CANNOT BE MET ANY OTHER WAY.

5. WHAT IS AT ISSUE IS THE HARM DONE TO BANGLADESH NOW AND THE STEPS THAT MUST BE TAKEN TO REMEDY THE HARM. INDIA MUST RESTORE THE NORMAL FLOW OF WATER.

6. INDIA HAS ALSO CAUSED HARM OR "INJURY" TO THE ENVIRONMENT OF BANGLADESH, AND BANGLADESH IS JUSTIFIED IN CALLING UPON INDIA TO REFRAIN FROM CAUSING FURTHER SUCH HARM.

B. ECONOMIC EFFECTS. GANGES WATER DIRECTLY AFFECTS 20,000 SQUARE MILES (37 PERCENT) OF BANGLADESH TERRITORY, AND ONE-THIRD OF ITS POPULATION. THE EFFECTS OF REDUCED DRY SEASON FLOWS, CAUSED BY THE DIVERSION OF WATER BY INDIA AT THE FARAKKA BARRAGE, INCLUDE:

1. INCREASED SALINITY DURING THE SPRING DRY SEASON. THE REDUCED FLOWS DOWN THE GANGES EXPLAIN THE INCREASE IN SALINITY, WHICH IN TURN HAS AFFECTED AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FORESTRY, POWER GENERATION AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDUSTRY. LOW LIFT PUMPS, SHALLOW AND DEEP TUBESWELLS CAN NOT BE USED BOTH BECAUSE WATER IS SALINE AND BECAUSE GROUND WATER TABLE LEVELS HAVE FALLEN. AS A RESULT, RICE PRODUCTION HAS FALLEN AN ESTIMATED 236,000 MT. ALSO FISH CATCHES HAVE DECLINED, FOREST GROWTH HAS BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED, AND ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY HAVE BEEN INJURED BY USE OF SALINE RIVER WATER.

2. REDUCED FLOWS IMPEDING IRRIGATION AND INLAND  
NAVIGATION.

C. CONCLUSION: INDIA'S REPEATED ASSURANCE OF SAFE-  
GUARDING THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF BOTH THE COUNTRIES  
WILL BE DEMONSTRATED BY HER RESTORING THE NORMAL FLOW OF  
THE GANGES TO BANGLADESH AND AGREEING TO A PERMANENT  
SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM BY THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF  
THE CO-RIPARIAN COUNTRIES THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
STORAGES IN THE GANGES BASIN. ANOTHER DRY SEASON WILL BE  
ON VERY SOON. THE PRESENT SITUATION CAN OT PERSIST  
FURTHER.

4. COMMENT: THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS IN BANGLADESH OF THE  
DRY SEASON DIVERSION OF 40,000 CUSECS AT FARAKKA ARE  
REAL ENOUGH, BUT THEY APPEAR EXAGGERATED. THE LOSS OF  
BORO RICE PRODUCTION IS CERTAINLY OVERSTATED, FOR EX-  
AMPLE. THE RECENT BREAKDOWN OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS  
REFLECTS DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW, WHICH EMERGE FROM  
THE PAPER. IN BRIEF, BANGLADESH WANTS ONLY TO DISCUSS A  
PERMANEMENT SOLUTION BASED ON UPSTREAM STORAGE AND RE-  
GULATION OF FLOOD AND DRY SEASON FLOWS. INDIA REPORTEDLY  
WANTS TO EXAMINE THE WHOLE EASTERN WATERS QUESTION,  
INCLUDING THE MANY RIVERS THAT FLOW THROUGH BOTH  
COUNTRIES, AND TO INCREASE DRY SEASON FLOWS BY DIVERT-  
ING BRAMAPUTRA WATER THROUGH A LINK CANAL TO THE GANGES,  
A GRANDER, MORE COSTLY AND MORE INTEGRATED SOLUTION  
APPROACHING IN MAGNITUDE THAT OF THE INDUS PROBLEM IN  
1960. THESE REPORTS SUGGEST NO EARLY COMPROMISE OF  
THESE DIFFERENCES.  
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